

Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act IMPACT Pilot Program

IMPACT

Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets (IMPACT) is a pilot effort targeting 13 highly threatened Neotropical migratory bird species, with the goal of achieving a **measurable biological improvement** in these species over the next 5-10 years.

Twenty-five to 30 percent of grant funding from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act is dedicated to the IMPACT program. IMPACT program projects must demonstrate and measure the improvement they have made in priority species' populations, or improve information on the factors limiting these and other threatened species' populations. Projects not accepted for IMPACT program funding remain eligible for funding through the core NMBCA grants program.

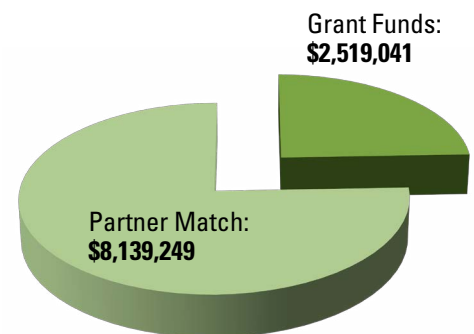
IMPACT...

- **Conserves high priority species**
- **Requires measurable outcomes**
- **Focuses conservation efforts**
- **Catalyzes partnerships**
- **Promotes stewardship**

A Strategy for the Future

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Advisory Group led the development of the IMPACT program, which began funding projects in 2012 and may run through 2022. The group will use the results of the IMPACT program to determine a strategy for the future direction of the NMBCA program.

2012-2014 IMPACT Program Grants



Grant Funds: \$2,519,041

Matching Funds: \$8,139,249

Match Ratio: 3.2 to 1

Projects: 20

Countries: 12

Acres Affected: 475,000

The Core Program

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants program conserves Neotropical migrants for the benefit of the American people. It provides financial resources to conserve 386 species of Neotropical migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere. Since 2002, the grant program has awarded more than \$50 million in grants, matched nearly 4-to-1 by non-federal partners, affecting 3.7 million acres across 36 countries.

The core NMBCA program complements the IMPACT program by maintaining a funding source for all Neotropical migratory species and addressing broader, more difficult to measure conservation outcomes.



Golden-Cheeked Warblers are one of 13 species prioritized for support through the IMPACT program of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Credit: Steve Maslowski/USFWS



The U.S.-Mexico Grassland Conservation Project conserves declining species of grassland birds like the Mountain Plover. Credit: Tim Lenz CC BY 2.0

Projects

Projects funded through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act IMPACT program must demonstrate an improvement in conservation status for a priority species in a measurable way, or increase conservation knowledge about factors limiting these species' populations. Long-term goals may include:

- **increase a species' reproductive success** on a portion of its breeding grounds as measured by local or regional surveys;
- **improve the population trend of a species** as measured by the North American Breeding Bird Survey;
- **improve the survival of a species** on a portion of its wintering grounds (used by a significant percentage of the population); or
- **reduce the most significant threat** to a target species in a locality or region.



IMPACT-funded outreach campaigns in Bolivia educate people about species that spend their summers in the north. Credit: Armonia

IMPACT program projects will show targeted conservation results within 5-10 years, keeping priority species from decline and complementing long-term investment strategies.

2014 Project Examples

• **Conservation Action for Bicknell's Thrush on its Canadian Breeding Grounds, Phase III.** Bird Studies Canada and partners will develop Better Management Practices and reach out to communities surrounding unprotected areas to secure long-term protection for Bicknell's Thrush. The project aims to stabilize the Bicknell's Thrush population over 5 years, and increase the species' population by 25% in 50 years.

• **Implementing Golden-cheeked Warbler Conservation Plan in Chiapas, Phase I.** Pronatura Sur and partners will involve local communities and governments in developing forest demonstration models for sustainable management practices. A regional strategy for reducing deforestation and an education program for teachers and children will also be developed.

• **U.S.-Mexico Grassland Bird Conservation, Phase XII.** Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will expand work with landowners in Chihuahua to improve habitat for Sprague's Pipit and other grassland birds on 25,500 acres, as well as protect 800 acres of prairie in western Nebraska that provide breeding and stopover habitat. Partners aim to double the wintering population of Sprague's Pipits and other high priority species in project sites in Chihuahua over 5 years.

Priority Species

Bicknell's Thrush
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Cerulean Warbler
Golden-cheeked Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Hudsonian Godwit
Kirtland's Warbler
Long-billed Curlew
Mountain Plover
Painted Bunting
Reddish Egret
Red Knot
Sprague's Pipit

The IMPACT program focuses on 13 highly threatened species. These species were chosen both for their urgent conservation need and for our partners' capacity to monitor them and measure population-level results.

How To Apply

IMPACT Program applications follow the same deadlines and submission process as the core NMBCA program, but there are additional requirements. Proposals must clearly address the most important factors limiting growth or stability in populations of targeted species. Proposals should show clear cause-and-effect linkages between the proposed one- to two-year grant period objectives and activities and the identified long-term goals for improved population status. For detailed instructions visit www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/InstructionsENG.shtm

More Information

For more information, contact Guy Foulks, NMBCA Program Coordinator, at 703/358-1944 or Guy_B_Foulks@fws.gov.

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